



Centre considering Sawalkot, other new hydropower projects in J&K

Ongoing projects to meet UT's demand, contribute to national needs: Union Power Secy

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 03: Stating that Jammu and Kashmir is set to see further development in its hydropower sector, Union Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal, on Saturday said the Centre is considering new projects, including Sawalkot, to harness the Union Territory's vast hydropower potential.

Agarwal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), told reporters here that the ongoing hydropower projects in J&K are making good progress and would help meet the Union Territory's power requirements and would also contribute to the electricity needs of the rest of the country.

The Union Power Secretary said the Centre is already making progress on major hydropower projects in J&K,



including Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiroo and Kwar and that the projects would help meet not only the Union Territory's electricity demand but also contribute to the power requirements of the rest of the country. "We are thinking about Sawalkot. We definitely want to work on this project in the future," Agarwal said.

He said the Centre is working

in collaboration with J&K through the Chenab Valley Corporation Ltd and is receiving full support from the UT administration.

"We are already working on big projects like Rasle, Pakaldol, Kiroo, Kwar. And we are making good progress. And we are getting the full support of the UT administration." | [More on P6](#)



Walnuts spread out to dry after harvest in Kashmir, as farmers make the most of the autumn season. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

LG condoles loss of life in Ramban accident



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief and anguish over the tragic bus accident in Ramban on Saturday.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "Deeply anguished by the tragic bus accident in Ramban, in which one person lost her life. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family." | [More on P6](#)

Op Sindoor underscores critical role of air power in modern warfare: IAF chief

'Drones, loitering munitions, precision weapons, fighter aircraft must operate as integrated force to achieve military objectives'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 03: Operation Sindoor highlighted the growing role of drones, loitering munitions and integrated air power in modern warfare, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Friday, stressing that these capabilities must operate in tandem with other weapons systems rather than as stand-alone forces.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Air Force



Day, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said loitering munitions were effective in creating "chaos" and neutralising adversaries.

On calls for a separate drone

force, he said drones were not a new capability for the IAF and had been part of its operations for decades.

"Drones are not revolutionary to the Indian Air Force. Yes, they are evolutionary," he

said, adding that the force was expanding both its drone fleet and munitions inventory.

The IAF already has specialised drone units and can expand them if required, Singh said, ruling out the need for a separate drone force.

"These have to work together with other weapons to create the desired effect. We cannot operate one type of weapon separately and another elsewhere," he said.

The IAF chief said recent conflicts had reinforced the importance of aerospace power in military operations.

"When we talk about a strong military, recent conflicts have shown that air power has emerged as the cutting edge of" | [More on P6](#)

Modi govt brings back 288 fugitives from 36 countries since 2019: HM Shah

'Rs 17,874 crore assets of fugitive criminals attached between 2019-2026'

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Oct 03: The Modi government has succeeded in bringing back a total of 288 fugitives from 36 countries between 2019 and August 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday, describing it as part of a coordinated campaign to make the extradition of fugitives a "national priority."

In a post on X, Shah congratulated all agencies for achieving a historic milestone by securing the deportation of hardened narco-trafficking kingpin Navpreet Singh from Türkiye.

"Modi govt has achieved a historic milestone by securing the deportation of hardened narco-trafficking kingpin Navpreet Singh from Türkiye. Obtaining Turkish citizenship under the fake identity of Navab Virk, he had continued to smuggle heroin and methamphetamine to India from Afghanistan. Our agencies tracked him down, ripping apart veil after veil to unmask his true identity, and secured his deportation. Today he has been brought back to India and put behind bars in connection with cases involving drug trafficking and other crimes he is accused of," Shah said.

"Congratulations to all the agencies for this success. Modi govt is committed to destroying every narco-cartel before Dec 2029," he added.

The government said



previous governments lacked the political will to bring back fugitives, while the Modi government has made extradition a national priority. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Shah has emphasised a three-pronged strategy against fugitives: global outreach, strong coordination, and smart diplomacy.

Shah has described the issue of fugitive offenders as one intrinsically linked to the country's sovereignty, economic stability, law and order, and national security.

The Modi Government enacted the NIA (Amendment) Act and the UAPA (Amendment) Act in 2019, and from 2020 onwards, the process of bringing fugitive offenders back to India was taken up in a mission mode.

As a result, enforcement efforts were no longer confined to proscribed organisations alone. The scope of action was expanded to include individual terrorists, | [More on P6](#)

Northern Army Commander reviews security in Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Saturday chaired a security review and coordination meeting in Srinagar, reviewing the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and coordination mechanisms with key stakeholders.

In a post on X, the Army's Northern Command, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Lt Gen Sharma stressed enhanced inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing and integrated coordination to



strengthen operational readiness, facilitate rapid response and enhance the effectiveness of joint operations.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, chaired a comprehensive Security Review & Coordination" | [More on P6](#)

J&K's has immense cricketing talent, needs nurturing: BCCI Chief Mithun Manhas says Auqib Nabi's rise reflects region's potential

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 03: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), president Mithun Manhas on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir has immense cricketing talent that needs to be nurtured and backed, while expressing commitment to helping cricket flourish across J&K and Ladakh.

Speaking to reporters here on the sidelines of the five-day Irani Cup, Manhas highlighted the rise of Baramulla-born pacer Auqib Nabi, saying his

journey to the Indian team reflected the hard work and talent available in the region.

"Auqib Nabi, who comes from Baramulla, has worked very hard to reach here. BCCI has given its full support to this association, and we have promised to give further support," he said.

Manhas, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the BCCI wanted more players from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to emerge at the national | [More on P6](#)

Saffron growers fear further production slump amid dry weather

Timely rains crucial for flowering as growers flag rising temps, climate-related losses, seek revival of irrigation facilities

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 03: Saffron growers in Kashmir are pinning their hopes on timely rainfall, fearing that prolonged dry weather and high temperatures could hurt flowering and further reduce production this season.

Growers, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said inadequate soil moisture has raised concerns across saffron-growing areas, stressing that rainfall

at this stage is critical for flowering and yields.

Abdul Majeed Wani, president of the Saffron Growers Association Kashmir, said high temperatures were a concern as saffron corms require favourable weather and adequate moisture for proper flowering.

"Temperatures are quite high these days, and this can affect flowering. When corms do not get favourable conditions and adequate moisture, the number of flowers

declines, ultimately affecting production," Wani said.

He said climate change and erratic weather have already taken a toll on saffron cultivation, leading to a sharp decline in production over the years.

"Production has declined considerably in recent years, and if timely rains do not occur this season, farmers fear further losses," he said.

Wani said more farmers had taken up saffron cultivation this year, but adequate moisture remained essential for the



crop's success.

"Without sufficient moisture at the right time, growers' investments can be affected," he said.

Another grower said farmers were hoping for favourable weather in the coming days as saffron is highly sensitive during the flowering period.

"Timely rain can make a significant difference. If dry conditions persist, yields may again remain poor," he said.

Government data reflects the sector's challenges.

Production fell from 17.33 metric tonnes (MT) in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022 before marginally improving to 14.94 MT in 2023. Growers said output dropped sharply thereafter, with production in 2024 estimated at around 30 per cent of normal levels and nearly 10 per cent in 2025.

They said repeated declines in output have hit farm incomes and raised concerns about the long-term viability of saffron cultivation.

Growers | [More on P6](#)

Govt committed to welfare, empowerment of people: Sakeena Itoo

Inaugurates Social Welfare facilities at Nanil, Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 03: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Nanil in Anantnag and inaugurated four newly constructed buildings of the Social Welfare Department dedicated to an Old Age Home and PLASH and PAREESH facilities.

On the occasion, Director Social Welfare Mohammad Akbar Khan briefed the Minister about the infrastructure created at the site. He informed that the four buildings have been constructed at an estimated cost of ₹11.27 crore. He further informed that an additional ₹1.10 crore has been kept available for development of allied infrastructure, including roads, parks and other essential facilities for PLASH and Old Age Home.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo, as per an official statement, said that the government is committed to the welfare and empowerment of people, particularly those facing social and economic vulnerabilities. She emphasised the need to strengthen the basic infrastructure and



welfare services at the grassroots level so that the benefits of government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries.

The Minister highlighted various developmental and welfare works undertaken for benefit of the people of Anantnag district. She said that the newly inaugurated facilities are aimed at providing care, shelter and support to vulnerable sections of society.

Explaining the purpose of the facilities, Sakeena Itoo said that PLASH is intended to provide care and support to orphaned children who have lost their parents and have no

adequate source of livelihood while the Old Age Home is meant for destitute elderly persons who do not have a home or family support.

She said that the Social Welfare Department has an important role in extending support and protection to the people facing social insecurity, physical disabilities and other vulnerabilities. She stressed that such institutions should provide not only shelter but also a safe, dignified and supportive environment for their residents.

The Minister assured the children at PLASH that

their requirements would be taken up on priority. She said that demands including establishment of a gymnasium, recreational park, improved road connectivity and an ambulance facility would be addressed at the earliest. Earlier, MLA Anantnag East Reyaz Ahmad Khan highlighted the developmental scenario of the constituency and projected various demands before the Minister. These included upgradation of the Nursing College at Aukura, widening of the Aukura-Aung road, establishment of a science laboratory at HSS Nanil, provision of smart classrooms, and strengthening of infrastructure and deployment of adequate medical and paramedical staff at the Nanil hospital building.

The Minister assured that the issues concerning the respective departments would be examined for appropriate action.

The inaugural function was attended by DG ICDS Sajad Ahmad Ganie, Deputy Director Social Welfare, Chief Medical Officer Anantnag, Chief Education Officer Anantnag, BMO Mattan, besides other senior officers, officials and a large number of people.

District Admin Bandipora organises drowning prevention, water safety demonstration at Athwatoo

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 03: In view of recent drowning incidents and as part of an extensive awareness drive initiated by the District Administration, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Saturday conducted a comprehensive live demonstration and awareness programme at Government Middle School, Athwatoo.

The primary objective of the program was to sensitize the local populace, particularly youth and school children, on drowning prevention, water safety measures, and life-saving rescue techniques during water-related emergencies.

During the session, SDRF personnel demonstrated practical rescue operations, standard operating procedures to follow during flash floods or swift water currents, and essential first-aid measures to be

administered before hospital transit.

On the occasion, experts and officials urged the community to exercise utmost caution around vulnerable water bodies, strongly advising children and youth against swimming, bathing, or venturing near perilous stretches of Nallah Madhumati.

The demonstration, as per an official statement, witnessed active participation from officers and officials representing the Revenue Department, Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), SDRF, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), Rural Development Department (RDD), along with local representatives, school faculty, students, and a large gathering of local residents.

It is pertinent to mention that similar joint sensitization programmes and live safety demonstrations will continue across vulnerable habitations.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL: exenifc@ganderbal.in

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No: 26 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S N o.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertise ment Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Com- pletion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Construction of Flood Protec- tion work on left side by way of toe protection crate work and channelization/ cunnitte cutting of Nallah from intake upto Gadoora Bridge from 0 to 02kms	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/GBL Order No: 17 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.08.2026	58.233	3000	1,74,700/-	180 Days	AAY	MH 4711 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ download- ed on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	30-09-2026	04:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	30-09-2026	04:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	28-09-2026	04:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	09-10-2026	04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	10-10-2026	11:00 A.M

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 10.10.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the coordinates. The said geo-tagged photographs shall be uploaded/ submitted along with the other documents as prescribed in the SBD/NIT."
- The Contractor shall be solely responsible for the disposal of the material covered under the Consideration Cost including loading, unloading, all sorts of carriages and other incidental expenses.
- The Department shall not be responsible for providing or arranging any disposal site for the said material. The disposal site shall be arranged by the Contractor at his own risk and cost.
- The rate quoted by the bidder for the item "consideration cost for the surplus excavated material got from the excavation" shall not be less than the estimated rate specified in the BOQ.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of quantities) contents, in no case they should attempt to create similar manually. The BOQ download should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.
- For all concrete works, the contractor has to use concrete mixers and vibrators as per the directions of the Engineer In-Charge.
- Special Conditions: -
- Price escalation and Taxes: The item wise cost / offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the cost quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work.
- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill of the contractor as per the rates prevailing at that time.
- The bidder should upload the latest GST return (latest quarter) & the payments will also be made subject to the production of latest GST returns.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Document" area in their uses on JK tenders e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- Complete Bio Data of contractor/ agency as per Appendix (I).
- Errors/omissions, if any shall be read with SOR 2022.
- Nothing shall be paid on account of dewatering, diversion or construction of ring bund quantities executed in or under water, making of tracks, ramps and removal of the same after completion even if involved at site. The contractor shall quote their rates accordingly.
- Drawl of Agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
- Production of original documents necessary for verification on declaration of the lowest bidder by or before 07 days of the opening of Price Bid/generation of comparative statement.
- Material: -
- In case of non-availability of stocks in divisional stores the contractor may purchase the required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by the Assistant Executive Engineer in charge after getting non availability certificate from Executive Engineer and shall not be entitled for any type of excessive rates on this account.
- Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are as below: -
- Any damages that will occur to the work during the course of execution due to flash floods or any other natural calamity, the work will have to be rectified/ repaired by the executing agency out of his own expenses and nothing extra will be paid on the account by the department.
- The successful bidder (L1) has to submit performance security @ 05% of contract value and has to deposit an additional performance security within 03 days from the date of issuance of intimation as per the below mentioned scale: A) Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price. B) Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- The contracts shall be allotted ratio proportionately with respect to the quoted tender depreciation.
- The Chief Engineer I&FC Department/ Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Executive Engineer I&FC Division Ganderbal (whichever applicable) reserves the right to postpone the tender submission/opening dates and to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. The decision of the Chief Engineer I&FC Department/ Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Executive Engineer I&FC Division Ganderbal (whichever applicable) after assessment of suitability as per eligibility criteria shall be final and binding.
- The tenders have been issued after receiving the requisite Administrative Approval by the competent authority and as per the budgetary provisions under the relevant Head of Account and as such the payments as and when made available shall be disbursed ratio proportionately in case the requisite funds under the relevant Head of Account are received phase wise.
- For any clarification, the bidders can contact Divisional Office on Mob. No. 9469003777 or can email the department at the email: exenifc@ganderbal.in
- Insurance: - Insurance cover to labour / Machinery/ Work/ Plant/ Material/ Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory
- Time Extension: -

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 6867-6916 Dated: 30.09.2026

DIPK-6352/26
DATED: 03-10-2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal

Tourist Interaction event held at Zabarwan Park Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03: A Tourist Interaction Event was organised Saturday by the Tourist Police at Zabarwan Park, bringing together senior officials of the Tourism Department, Tourist Police, different stakeholders and service providers, besides visiting tourists.

The event, as per an official statement, was organised under the initiative of Dr. S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement / Deputy

Director Tourism (Enforcement), with the objective of strengthening coordination among the Tourism Department, Tourist Police and tourism stakeholders and ensuring a safe, welcoming and hassle-free experience for tourists visiting Kashmir.

A key feature of the programme was direct interaction with visiting tourists and recording their testimonials and experiences, which will be disseminated through

official social media platforms and news portals to showcase authentic visitor experiences and assess their wider impact on the tourism profile of Jammu & Kashmir.

The interaction also focused on tourist safety, transparent pricing, quality service delivery, prevention of touting and unfair practices, and respecting the freedom of tourists to choose their accommodation, transport, shopping and other services.

Reform Utsav Campaign

Special Gram Sabhas held across Kupwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 03: As part of the nationwide Reform Utsav and Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, District Administration Kupwara conducted Special Maha Gram Sabhas across all blocks and panchayats on Gandhi Jayanti, enabling citizens to directly engage with the administration on grass-roots development.

Deputy Commissioner, Shrikant Suse chaired the flagship Sabha at Panchayat Ghar Sulkote, alongside senior revenue and development officers. Residents, including senior citizens, raised local issues, which the DC assured would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He urged citizens to actively use Gram Sabhas for participatory planning and called for a drug-free, clean and developed Kupwara.

A Swachhata Pledge was administered and participants were briefed on farmer registration, Jal Jeevan Mission, SWM Rules, Viksit Bharat-G RAM G, Nasha Mukta Jand K campaign and the Nyay Sanhita.

Sabhas were held in all blocks, including Teetwal, Tangdar, Vilgam, Drugmulla, Karnah, focusing on roads, water, power, education, health, agriculture and livelihoods.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir.

email: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Corrigendum 01 (Extension)

Name of work:- Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Zip line and Rope Cycling/ Sky Cycling at Wular Vantage Park, Garoora.
Reference: i. e-NIT No: - MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/55
ii. Tender ID No.: 2026_PWDJK_325765_1

Due to no response; the critical dates of the above referred to NIT No. are hereby rescheduled as under.

S. No.	Description	Date & Time
1	Document Submission End Date	08/10/2026 up to 1400hrs
2.	Date of Opening of Cover-I	08/10/2026 at 1600hrs

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

No: MHDH/TS/2219-22 Date: 03/10/2026.

DIPK-6384/26

DATED: 03-10-2026

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/8456-60

Dated: 01/10/2026

Extension Notice

Subject: - 1. Macadamization of Panner Kathwar Gujjar Basti Road.

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT No.Fresh-104/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/5257-67 Dated: 25-08-2026.

1	Bid Submis- sion End Date	07-10-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08-10-2026 up to 12:00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Technical officer

DIPK-6366/26

DATED: 03-10-2026

sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Satish Sharma undertakes development tour of Chhamb

KT News Desk

Chhamb, Oct 03: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of the Chhamb Assembly Constituency, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for a series of development works worth more than 3 Cr aimed at strengthening basic infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing public amenities across the constituency.

The day-long programme covered several villages and habitations, with the Minister personally reviewing the progress and requirements of infrastructure works and interacting with local residents.

The development initiatives included roads, culverts, drainage and protection works, community infrastructure and educational facilities, reflecting a focused approach towards addressing the immediate infrastructure needs of the people.

At Migrant Colony, Kodewala Camp, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a park and inaugurated the



newly constructed drains, aimed at improving the local environment, drainage management and public amenities for residents.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of a link road from Kharah to Thanda Choa, underlining the importance of improved road connectivity for facilitating movement of people and access to essential services.

At Village Kalah, the Minister inaugurated protection works near the house of Madan Lal, Ex-Punch, followed by inauguration of protection works at Mohalla Chatyala. The works are intended to strengthen vulnerable stretches and protect residential and public

infrastructure.

At Village Jawan, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a culvert near Atta Chakki and inaugurated a Community Hall.

He said that community infrastructure plays an important role in providing people with accessible spaces for social, public and community activities and called for ensuring that such facilities are completed within stipulated timelines and maintained properly.

At Mohalla Thakur Dass, the Minister inaugurated protection works on the Mageri to Rajani Road, aimed at safeguarding the road and improving its long-term

functionality.

The Minister's visit to Dhakkar included multiple important development interventions. He inaugurated protection works on the link road from Narbeda to Dhakkar, inaugurated a Community Hall, and laid the foundation stone for construction of an Examination Hall at Government Higher Secondary School, Dhakkar.

He also inaugurated a culvert at Village Dhakkar.

Emphasising the importance of educational infrastructure, Satish Sharma said that investment in facilities for students is an investment in the future of the region. He stressed that the proposed examination hall would provide students with improved infrastructure and a more conducive academic environment.

Speaking during the tour, Satish Sharma said that development must be visible on the ground and directly benefit the people.

He directed the concerned agencies to maintain strict quality standards, ensure timely execution and undertake regular monitoring of ongoing works. He said that public money must translate into durable and useful assets and that developmental projects should not face avoidable delays. The Minister

emphasised that road connectivity, drainage, protection infrastructure and community facilities constitute the basic framework of development, particularly in rural and peripheral areas, and assured that such requirements would continue to receive focused attention.

He said that the Government is committed to taking development to the grassroots and addressing infrastructure gaps in a systematic manner.

During the visit, Satish Sharma also interacted with local residents and listened to their concerns and development-related issues.

He assured the people that their genuine demands would be examined with the concerned departments and that necessary interventions would be pursued for their timely resolution.

The Minister maintained that people's participation and continuous feedback are essential for ensuring that development planning remains aligned with ground realities.

He called upon the executing agencies and field functionaries to remain responsive to public concerns and maintain close coordination while implementing development works.

Union MoS, delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan on Saturday.

In the meantime, Dr. Touseef Bhatt, President, Rotary Club of Kashmir called on the Lieutenant Governor and apprised him of important matters related to youth empowerment, environmental conservation and community service, along with ongoing and proposed Rotary International projects in

the region.

He was accompanied by Rotarians Irfan Gujju and Shri Sajad Shah.

Meanwhile, Javid Ahmed Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed the promotion of Trade and Export sectors in the UT. He was accompanied by Shri Zubair Mahajan, Executive Member, KCCI.

Furthermore, Sehar Khan, Youth BJP leader and International Affairs & United Nations Delegate from J&K called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Irani Cup

Rollead by 265 runs, Smaran scores century



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 03: Ravichandran Smaran's unbeaten century rescued Rest of India (RoI) from a precarious position and helped them stretch their lead over Jammu and Kashmir to 265 runs at stumps on the third day of the Irani Cup encounter at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar on Saturday.

According to the details, Rest of India began the day with a 17-run deficit and finished on 306 for eight after 94 overs, with Smaran remaining unbeaten on 126 and Mukesh Choudhary on 9.

J&K had reduced Rest of India to 197 for eight, with the visitors' lead standing at only 156 runs, but Smaran and Choudhary frustrated the hosts with an unbeaten 109-run partnership for the ninth wicket.

Smaran, who had scored 68 in Rest of India's first innings, once again played a rescue act for the visitors. He reached

his second fifty of the match and went on to complete a century, finishing unbeaten on 126 off 131 balls, with 15 fours and five sixes.

The late partnership completely changed the position of the match after J&K had produced a strong spell of bowling in the afternoon and evening sessions.

Sanat Sangwan, who was unbeaten on 52 at lunch, scored 55 off 160 balls before Umar Nazir Mir provided the breakthrough. The J&K pacer then dismissed Saransh Jain for 25 and Sarfaraz Khan for a duck in the same over, reducing Rest of India from 128 for two to 131 for five.

Umar Nazir finished with three for 87, while Sahil Lotra also claimed three wickets for 71 runs. Lotra dismissed Manav Suthar for 16 before removing

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Samad backs Nasir after all-round show for J&K

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 03: For Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Lone Nasir Muzaffar, the historic Irani Cup encounter in Srinagar has brought a significant moment in his young first-class career, with the pacer claiming his first first-class wicket and then producing an attacking 64 to help the hosts take a 41-run lead over Rest of India.

According to the details available, Nasir, playing only his fourth first-class match, produced an all-round performance for J&K, taking three wickets in Rest of India's first innings before scoring 64 off 58 balls to help the hosts recover from 166 for eight and post 278. The innings gave J&K a 41-run first-innings lead over Rest of India's 237.

Speaking in a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Nasir described the experience of playing in such a major match as a "very good feeling" and said he was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to his team.

"I got the opportunity to play in this match and to

deliver for my team. I consider myself lucky and I am very grateful," Nasir said.

His 64 came at a crucial stage of J&K's innings. The hosts had slipped to 166 for eight, still 71 runs behind Rest of India's first-innings total, when Nasir joined captain Paras Dogra at the crease.

Nasir said his approach was to play normally and take the innings deep after Dogra, who was already batting, advised him to watch the ball and play according to the situation.

He said his aim was to take J&K's total to around 300, but added that he regretted not being able to reach that mark.

The partnership with Dogra, however, proved crucial as the pair added 64 runs for the ninth wicket before Dogra was dismissed for 75. Nasir then added another 48 with Sunil Kumar for the final wicket as J&K moved from 166 for eight to 278 all out.

Nasir eventually fell for 64 off 58 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, as J&K secured the first-innings lead. His contribution, as per KNO, had begun with

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BL Santhosh stresses organisational continuity

Chugh targets NC over statehood



Yogesh

Jammu, Oct 03: BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santhosh on Saturday said organisational responsibilities may change, but the core duties and commitment of party workers remain unchanged.

Addressing a Samman Samaroh at the BJP headquarters to honour Tarun Chugh and Ashok Koul for their organisational contributions, Santhosh said workers should remain committed to the larger organisational mission rather than individuals or positions.

Congratulating Chugh and Koul, he said organisational responsibilities help individuals gain experience and leadership skills. He also praised Koul's long association with the RSS and his work in J&K.

Chugh, now BJP National Office Prabhari and Gujarat Prabhari, said BJP workers had made sacrifices during difficult periods in J&K and credited the Narendra Modi government with putting the Union Territory on the path of development.

He described Koul as a key force behind the BJP's organisational expansion in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a separate statement, Chugh criticised the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government over the proposed statehood resolution, alleging it was being used to divert attention from governance issues.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already committed in Parliament to restoring J&K's statehood and urged the government to focus on jobs, development

and delivery of electoral promises.

"Omar Abdullah should stop talking about irrelevant issues and present his government's report card. People are waiting for answers on jobs, development and the promises made to them," Chugh said.

Asserting that J&K had moved beyond the politics of the 1990s, he cautioned against what he termed separatist politics and said the BJP would continue to function as a strong and constructive Opposition in the Assembly.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Chugh said the exercise was necessary to maintain electoral integrity and questioned Congress' opposition to it. Among those present

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ASHA workers protest, demand pay hike

Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Oct 03: ASHA workers on Saturday staged a protest at the Sports Stadium in Anantnag under the banner of the Trade Union Coordination Committee (TUCC), demanding the fulfilment of their long-pending demands, including an enhancement in their monthly remuneration. The protesting workers, raising slogans in support of their demands, said they have been performing crucial grassroots-level responsibilities in the healthcare system but continue to face financial difficulties due to what they described as inadequate remuneration.

The protest was led by ASHA Workers' President Shaheena Akhtar and Trade Union General Secretary Muzfar Ahmad Ganaie.

Addressing the gathering, the



speakers said ASHA workers serve as an important link between the health department and communities, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. They said the workers remain engaged in various activities related to maternal and child health, immunisation,

nutrition, awareness programmes and other public health initiatives.

The protesters demanded that the government enhance their monthly remuneration and ensure that their financial compensation is commensurate with the responsibilities entrusted to

them. "ASHA workers are performing essential duties at the grassroots level and often work in difficult circumstances. Their remuneration should reflect the nature and extent of their responsibilities," the speakers said.

They demanded that the government consider their long-pending issues on priority and take concrete measures to improve their financial and working conditions. The speakers sought parity with ASHA workers in other states, stating that the government should examine the remuneration being provided elsewhere and take appropriate measures to improve the compensation of ASHA workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several protesters said that despite being the frontline workforce of the public health system, ASHA workers continue to face

financial uncertainty.

"We are working in villages and remote areas and remain available for different health-related activities. We want the government to recognise our contribution and address our genuine demands," the protesters said.

The TUCC leaders warned that failure to address their demands would compel them to intensify their agitation.

They, however, said that the workers would continue to pursue their demands through democratic and constitutional means and urged the government to initiate dialogue with their representatives to resolve the issues.

The protesting workers appealed to the administration and the concerned authorities to intervene and ensure that their demands are considered at the earliest—(KNO)

Minor girl injured in Kulgam leopard attack

Umair Gul Ganaie

Kulgam, Oct 03: A seven-year-old girl was injured after being attacked by a leopard in the Damhal Hanji Pora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said. An official said that the girl sustained injuries in the leopard attack in Damhal Hanji Pora, Kulgam.

He said the girl was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar for specialised medical care and identified her as Shahida Akhtar (7), daughter of Rafia Kalas, a resident of DH Pora, Kulgam.

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Man held for impersonating Govt official, cheating

KNO

Shopian, Oct 03: Police have registered a case against a man for impersonating government officials and cheating people through social media in Shopian district, officials said here on Saturday.

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EDITORIAL

Governance At Your Fingertips

The Jammu and Kashmir government's plan to deliver 100 high-footfall public services through WhatsApp is a fundamental reimagining of the relationship between the citizen and the state. For too long, accessing government services in Jammu and Kashmir has meant navigating a maze of portals, standing in queues, making multiple visits to offices, and often relying on intermediaries. This is especially burdensome for people in rural and remote

areas, for the elderly, and for those with limited digital literacy. The promise of governance has too often been undermined by the friction of accessing it. The proposed AI-powered conversational messaging platform changes that equation. By integrating services such as income, domicile, caste and EWS certificates, land records, driving licence renewals, birth and death certificates, social welfare schemes and bill payments into a single, familiar interface,

the government is meeting citizens where they already are. No new app to download. No complex portal to navigate. Just a WhatsApp message. Equally commendable is the thought that has gone into the design. Multilingual support in Urdu, Hindi and English. One-time registration and Single Sign-On. OCR-based document processing. Integration with the Family ID system. Automated grievance escalation. These features are the building blocks of a genuinely

citizen-centric system. Technology alone does not transform governance. It must be accompanied by institutional readiness, clear accountability and a willingness to learn from feedback. The selection of JK SAMADHAN 2.0 as the first service for integration is a sensible starting point. Grievance redressal is where trust is built or broken. If citizens see their complaints being resolved faster and more transparently, they will embrace the platform. The ultimate test of

this initiative will not be in its technical sophistication but in its impact on ordinary lives. If a farmer in Kupwara can get a land record without travelling to the district headquarters, if a student in Rajouri can apply for a scholarship from her phone, if an elderly man in Srinagar can pay his water bill without leaving home, then this will be a genuine revolution. The government deserves credit for thinking boldly. Now it must deliver.

Communicating Swachhata, Changing Behaviour

The Social And Behaviour Change Communication Journey Of The Swachh Bharat Mission

Press Information Bureau

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) placed behaviour change at the centre of sanitation, moving beyond infrastructure towards sustained practices and social norms. Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) transformed communication from information dissemination into dialogue, participation, and collective action. Mahatma Gandhi and his ideals of cleanliness and self-service became the guiding principles of SBM. Community institutions and grassroots actors, like Swachhagrahis, helped turn individual sanitation practices into shared community norms. Multiple communication channels reinforced Swachhata messages across households, communities, public spaces and digital platforms. Women and children became both beneficiaries and active agents in spreading and sustaining sanitation behaviours. Reinforcement, recognition, incentives and participatory monitoring helped move Swachhata from a campaign activity to sustained community behaviour.

The Behavioural Foundations of Swachh Bharat

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has treated sanitation as a matter of behaviour, participation and collective responsibility. The Mission recognised that infrastructure alone could not create sustained sanitation outcomes. SBM therefore placed behaviour change communication at the centre of its implementation approach. Under SBM-G, the focus is not limited to toilet construction. It encourages communities to adopt safe and sustainable sanitation practices. Similarly, under SBM-U, the focus is not only on waste processing. It focusses on making waste segregation at source a public habit and achieving total urban sanitation and public cleanliness. Information, Education, Communication (IEC) strategies, behaviour reinforcement, and monitoring are therefore integral to the SBM implementation strategy. SBM has evolved from building sanitation assets towards sustaining sanitation behaviour. This evolution places Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) at the centre.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Launched on 2 October 2014, SBM became one of India's largest government-led sanitation movements. The Mission operates through two components: SBM-Grameen and SBM-Urban. SBM-G focuses on rural sanitation, toilet access, usage, and waste management. SBM-U focuses on urban sanitation, waste management, and clean public spaces. For details on achievements of SBM, please also read here.

From Information to Behaviour Change Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) uses communication to support positive social change. It combines several approaches to influence knowledge, attitudes, norms and practices. These include interpersonal communication, community mobilisation and mass media. It also includes social media, entertainment, advocacy and strategic partnerships.

SBCC under SBM goes beyond simply disseminating information. It seeks to influence attitudes, social norms and everyday practices. This approach under SBM combines interpersonal communication, community mobilisation, awareness generation and collective action. Its long-term objective is to change social norms around open defecation and waste management. It recognises that people's behaviour is influenced by their social environment. Families, neighbours, community groups, local institutions and trusted leaders can reinforce or discourage particular practices. Communication, therefore, works through relationships and collective participation.

Mahatma Gandhi: A Moral Anchor for SBCC under SBM

Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on cleanliness and sanitation provided a powerful foundation for the SBM's communication strategy. The Mission was launched on 2 October 2014 to achieve a Swachh Bharat by Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in 2019. The logo of SBM represents the spectacles of Mahatma Gandhi. It has helped in creating the brand value and representing the emotion for cleanliness worldwide. It has also helped the masses associate themselves easily and quickly with the mission. Consequently, rural India was declared ODF on 2 October 2019.

Mahatma Gandhi had started his campaign for cleanliness from Champaran during the Satyagraha movement. His vision of an ideal village was one with perfect sanitation, village

lanes and streets free of all avoidable dust. In his book "Ashram Observances in Action", Gandhi writes that sanitary service is an essential and sacred service. His Sevagram Ashram laid emphasis on engaging no outside labour for this work. The members themselves attended in turns to clean the premises. The Ashram rules also laid down that it was necessary that inmates wash their hands and wipe them with a clean napkin. SBM's messaging drew on this legacy to build public ownership and encourage participation in behaviour change.

This connection also shaped the language and symbolism of the behaviour change movement. The term 'Swachhagrahi' consciously drew from Gandhi's tradition of Satyagraha, recasting citizens and sanitation volunteers as participants in a collective Swachhagraha. SBM, therefore, revered Mahatma Gandhi not merely as a commemorative figure, but as a communication anchor for linking cleanliness with collective action, citizenship and sustained behavioural change.

Taking Behaviour Change to the Doorsteps: Changing Individual Habits

SBM translated SBCC principles into direct, community-level engagement. Interpersonal Communication (IPC) became an important pathway for influencing sanitation practices. Unlike one-way messaging, IPC enables dialogue between communicators and community members. It allows concerns, perceptions, and practical barriers to be discussed within local contexts. The government relied on frontline workers, Swachhagrahis, community leaders, self-help groups (SHGs), and existing social networks for facilitating IPC. The methods included home visits, face-to-face counselling, small-group sessions, peer communication and discussions at homes, health centres, community settings and religious gatherings.

Swachhagrahis became grassroots foot soldiers and motivators under SBM-G. Their role extended beyond promoting toilet construction. They helped families adopt and sustain safe sanitation behaviours. Swachhagrahis facilitated community nudging and triggering, household visits, and sanitation discussions. They also supported community mobilisation and strengthened Nigrani Samitis. Their engagement continued even after ODF declaration to further reinforce sanitation practices among individuals and families.

Interpersonal communication also extended into community-led vigilance through Nigrani Samitis. These committees were strengthened to support ODF achievement and sustainability. Their activities included regular morning and evening monitoring within villages. Nigrani activities focused particularly on common open defecation spots. They reinforced sanitation messages through continued community presence and follow-up. Regular Nigrani drives, village meetings, and Ratri Chaupals helped sustain ODF behaviour. Swachhagrahis were provided with a toolkit that included a torch and whistle to support their field-level vigilance during community monitoring.

The approach therefore moved sanitation from an individual practice towards a shared community norm. The community itself became an active participant in reinforcing and sustaining behaviour change.

From Individual Conversations to Collective Action

Interpersonal communication created opportunities for dialogue at the household and community level. Community mobilisation took this process further by bringing people together to discuss shared sanitation concerns and identify collective solutions. Under SBM, it provided platforms for communities to participate in decisions affecting their everyday sanitation practices. Gram Sabhas, chaupals, community meetings and other local forums enabled dialogue on sanitation issues and helped communities build consensus around common priorities.

Community mobilisation also brought different groups into the sanitation conversation. Community leaders, Panchayati Raj Institutions, volunteers, religious leaders and women's groups could facilitate local discussions and events. This approach connected individual behaviour with collective responsibility. A household adopting safe sanitation practices became part of a wider community effort. Community discussions created opportunities to identify local concerns, exchange experiences, and build agreement around desired

practices. This approach was also reflected through campaigns such as Chalo Champaran, Swachh Shakti, Swachh Sundar Sauchalaya, Swachhata Hi Seva, Swachh Sundar Samudayik Sauchalaya, Swachh Bharat Diwas, Swachhata Mahotsav and Swachhata Pakhwada. These campaigns provided platforms for collective participation around sanitation and cleanliness.

Community mobilisation was further reinforced through mid-media and outdoor communication. These channels carried sanitation messages beyond individual conversations and into spaces where communities routinely gathered. Puppet shows, magic shows, drama and street theatre (nukkad natak) are some of the examples of local and traditional mid-media formats. Outdoor media uses public spaces such as billboards and wall paintings on authorised public walls to communicate sanitation messages. Wall paintings and graffiti art have been used especially to communicate Swachhata messages while reflecting local identity and supporting city beautification. The importance of such formats lies not only in message visibility, but also in how they place Swachhata within the everyday social environment. A sanitation message encountered during a community event, street performance, or public gathering can reinforce conversations taking place within households and local groups.

A major area of focus under SBM-U has been the leveraging of digital tools for maximizing citizen outreach. For example, Google Maps was used to upload of more than 67,000 public toilet blocks across more than 3,300 cities. This has made sanitation facilities more easily accessible to all categories of citizens. The Swachhata App has provided a one-stop digital platform for grievance redressal for citizens to register their complaints about any aspect of cleanliness.

Mass media provided another layer of reinforcement. These included television, radio, print, and online media channels. Community radio carried discussions, testimonials, stories, and public service announcements related to swachhata. Social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram proved instrumental in disseminating key messages and building virtual networks and communities. Mobile telephone services supported awareness through bulk SMS, WhatsApp, and podcasts.

Swachh Talks provides an example of digital engagement within SBM-U. It is a peer-learning webinar series for sharing field experiences and best practices related to Swachhata. Such platforms extend the conversation beyond conventional sanitation to issues like plastic waste management and promotion of the circular economy.

The movement from IPC to community mobilisation represents a shift in the unit of behaviour change. This progression is important to the SBCC approach under SBM. Communication does not end when a message reaches an individual. It gains greater significance when people discuss it, adapt it to their local context, and participate in collective action. In this process, participation itself becomes a form of communication.

Celebrity Endorsements and Popular Culture as Vehicles for SBCC

Swachh Bharat also used the reach of celebrities to strengthen its SBCC efforts. In 2016, Amitabh Bachchan and Sachin Tendulkar featured in national audio-visual campaigns for SBM-G. These campaigns were designed to make communication more people-centric and support behaviour change and citizen engagement. Both of them also participated in Swachh Bharat events to encourage grassroots workers and sanitation champions. Amitabh Bachchan subsequently led the 'Darwaza Band' campaign in 2017. The campaign promoted toilet use among people who had toilets but continued to practise open defecation. It also featured Anushka Sharma, who encouraged women to take leadership in addressing sanitation within their villages. The campaign used mass media to complement grassroots IEC and interpersonal communication by Swachhagrahis.

Cinema also became a vehicle for addressing sanitation-related social norms. 'Toilet - Ek Prem Katha', featuring Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar, brought sanitation and toilet use into mainstream popular culture. In 2018, Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar featured in an SBM-G campaign promoting twin-pit toilet technology. The film was also made available for non-commercial screenings in villages by

state and district SBM-G teams. The campaign further used celebrity influence to address the stigma around emptying toilet pits and encourage sustained toilet use. Vidya Balan featured in a video propagating the slogan "jaha soch, vaha shauchalaya". It stressed upon the health benefits of using toilets. It also encouraged women-led toilet-building initiatives in rural households. Thus, popular media served as an additional layer of SBCC, taking sanitation messages from government campaigns into television, cinema and public discourse.

Women and Children: Shaping and Experiencing Swachhata

Sanitation can transform everyday experiences while creating new spaces for participation. For women, Suraksha, Suvidha and Swabhimaan capture three important dimensions of this change. Safety, convenience, and self-respect connect sanitation with women's everyday lives. The impact is reflected in women's reported experiences. A study conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Jal Shakti found that 93 percent of women no longer feared being hurt by someone or harmed by animals while defecating. 91 percent reported saving up to an hour and avoiding travel of up to a kilometre. 93 percent also reported no longer restricting food or water intake to manage sanitation needs.

Interestingly, in Bihar, people have started calling toilets 'izzatghars', signifying their connection with the dignity of women. Construction of toilets has, thus, helped address a significant social imbalance. It is becoming a reason for economic and social empowerment. Women have contributed to sanitation as community actors. Women's groups and SHGs form part of the community networks through which sanitation communication can take place. This connects sanitation communication with existing community institutions and networks.

Children provide another important link between sanitation communication and everyday behaviour. Schools can become spaces where sanitation practices are discussed, demonstrated and reinforced. The SBM identifies students as participants and agents of change. SBM has focused on school-based approaches including curriculum integration, awareness campaigns, Shramdaan, mobile-van education and visits to waste-management facilities. Communication has also reached children through formats that combine learning with participation and entertainment. These include educational videos, flipcharts and other materials for small-group engagement. It also recognises local and traditional formats such as puppet shows, magic shows, drama and street theatre for communicating sanitation messages.

Together, women and children illustrate the two-way nature of sanitation behaviour change. They experience the benefits of improved Swachhata while also contributing to its spread through families, schools and communities. Women's groups may strengthen community networks, while children may carry sanitation messages into households and everyday interactions. Swachhata therefore becomes not only a matter of infrastructure or individual practice, but a shared community behaviour sustained across generations.

Reinforcing Desired Swachhata Behaviour through Awards & Recognitions

Sustaining Swachhata requires reinforcement beyond initial awareness and mobilisation. The SBM approach combines certification, recognition, nudges, and community incentives. These mechanisms help sustain participation and encourage continued adoption of desired sanitation practices.

Certification protocols awarded to cities and villages provide measurable standards for sanitation and cleanliness outcomes. Under SBM, ODF, ODF+, ODF++, Water+, and Star Rating protocols helped standardise these outcomes with citizen participation. The ODF protocol focuses on ensuring access to toilets for all citizens. ODF+ extends this focus to functional and usable Community and Public Toilets. Their proper operation and maintenance support continued toilet use and help prevent slippage to open defecation. ODF++ addresses the safe containment, evacuation, transportation, and processing of faecal sludge. It seeks to prevent untreated sludge from entering open drains, water bodies or fields. Water+ extends the focus to untreated black and grey water. It also promotes reuse of a portion of treated wastewater. For solid waste management, the Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities provides

a single metric for assessing a city's waste management status. Its parameters include door-to-door collection and source segregation. They also cover scientific processing of waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites. Together, these protocols create benchmarks against which Swachhata outcomes can be assessed.

Recognition can reinforce participation by making positive behaviour visible within the community. SBM rewards and felicitates best-performing workers, peer leaders and local champions through peer recognition and appreciation letters from the government. Recognition can also create aspirational examples for others to emulate. The approach therefore connects individual contribution with collective identity and community participation.

Incentives can also be designed around specific local sanitation and waste management challenges. The Swachhata Chronicles documents an example from Panchayat Halqa Hiller in Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative introduced "Give Polythene Get Gold" to encourage communities to collect plastic waste. Youth and women supported the campaign, which aimed to make local areas free from polythene waste. Two gold coins were offered against specified quantities of collected plastic waste. The initiative combined awareness, community participation, and an incentive to encourage action. The campaign also included cloth bags for households and community shramdaan drives.

Thus, reinforcement under Swachhata operates at multiple levels. Protocols establish standards, nudges encourage desired actions, recognition celebrates sustained participation, and community incentives can stimulate local ownership. These mechanisms help shift Swachhata from a campaign-driven activity towards a sustained behavioural practice.

Behaviour Monitoring for Maintaining Swachhata

Sustaining Swachhata requires mechanisms that can assess progress and identify areas needing further action. Monitoring, therefore, extends beyond measuring infrastructure. It also creates opportunities for citizen participation, local assessment, and continuous improvement.

Swachh Survekshan has emerged as the world's largest urban sanitation survey. It evaluates cities and states across sanitation and cleanliness parameters. The survey has also evolved into an important governance tool under SBM-U. Swachh Survekshan acts as a catalyst by encouraging healthy competition among cities and States. This creates an incentive for local administrations to improve their sanitation performance. Citizen participation has also expanded significantly through the survey. Around one lakh citizens provided feedback during its first round in 2016. This increased to nearly five crore citizens during the sixth round in 2021. The survey therefore provides more than an assessment of sanitation outcomes. It creates a structured interface between citizens, local governments and sanitation systems.

At the community level, monitoring also supports the sustainability of behavioural change. SBM-G guidelines provide for continued engagement by Nigrani Samitis, community leaders and Panchayat representatives after ODF declaration.

The Continuing Journey of Swachhata

The journey of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) reflects a progressive evolution in both sanitation practices and communication approaches. The initial emphasis was on creating awareness and generating demand for household toilets, followed by efforts to encourage their regular use and eliminate open defecation. As these gains were consolidated, the focus expanded towards sustaining ODF status and strengthening the management of solid and liquid waste. Communication evolved alongside these priorities, moving from awareness generation to deeper engagement and collective participation.

Collectively, these experiences reflect a consistent trajectory, from information to engagement, from engagement to participation, and from participation to sustained community ownership. Under SBM, communication has consequently become an integral part of the sanitation ecosystem, connecting people with infrastructure, institutions, and collective action. The larger objective is not merely to communicate the message of Swachhata, but to nurture it as a sustained practice embedded in everyday community life.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

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Justice Sanjeev Kumar visits Child Care Institutions “Palaash” and “Pareesha” at Nishat, Srinagar

Provide all required facilities to children in Home, to involve IMHANS for mental health psycho social camps

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03: Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority Saturday visited “Palaash” (Children Home for Boys) and “Pareesha” (Children Home for Girls) at Nishat, here to take stock of the facilities being provided to the children in these Homes.

On his arrival at Pareesha, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, as per an official statement, was accorded warm welcome by the District Child Protection officer Srinagar, CWC Srinagar Chairperson, Superintendent, Pareesha and staff of the homes. Justice Sanjeev Kumar interacted with children staying there and enquired about their studies and other activities of interest. The DCPO, Superintendent Pareesha informed Justice Sanjeev Kumar about the various upgraded facilities provided at Pareesha like improved Computer room,



open gym, and facility of evening Tutor.

The Home for Boys “Palash” situated adjoining to Pareesha was also inspected where boys of different age groups were present. Similar facilities were available in the said Home. During an interaction with the children both at “Palaash” and “Pareesha”, Justice Sanjeev Kumar was informed that they are being provided with nutritious and satisfactory meals, educational and health

facilities. They further informed that they are being provided with books as well as sports equipment.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar gave some onspot directions to the DCPO, Superintendent of these Home to provide all required facilities to the children in Home and to involve IMHANS for mental health psycho social camps and for referrals in case of any severity.

Thereafter, Justice Sanjeev Kumar visited Observation

Home Harwan, Srinagar and inspected the facilities being provided to the inmates. While interacting with inmates of the Home, Justice Sanjeev Kumar issued necessary directions to the management for ensuring that the facilities are maintained and the needs of the inmates are duly attended to.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department in ensuring satisfactory services and care for children, while

maintaining cleanliness and the required standards of living in the child-care institutions.

He directed the authorities to organize district and UT-level programmes on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with the active involvement of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), District Social Welfare Offices, Department of Education and relevant stakeholders.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar further emphasized leveraging the technical expertise and long-standing collaboration of UNICEF with the J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) to strengthen awareness, prevention, child-friendly responses, and effective implementation of the POCSO framework across the Union Territory.

This visit underscored the commitment of the J&K Legal Services Authority to the welfare of children in institutional care, ensuring they receive the necessary support and opportunities for their development.

ADDC Anantnag reviews Road Safety Measures



KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 03: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the status of road safety measures being implemented across the district and assess the progress made by various concerned agencies towards reducing road accidents.

The meeting also reviewed the status of compensation and relief being provided to road accident victims and their families, besides deliberating upon preventive and engineering measures required to enhance road safety.

The meeting was attended by the SE R&B (Member Secretary), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), ARTO, representatives of NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon, DySP Traffic, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Anantnag and other officers and representatives of departments and agencies associated with road safety planning and implementation.

At the outset, SE R&B, Syed Ishaq Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on the decisions taken during the previous meeting of the District Road Safety Committee and the progress achieved on various directions.

The Committee was informed about the preventive measures undertaken by the concerned agencies, including identification of accident-prone black spots, implementation of remedial measures, regular maintenance and strengthening of vulnerable road stretches, improvement and standardisation of road signage and installation of reflectors. The meeting was also apprised of the technical inspection of vehicles being undertaken to ensure roadworthiness and compliance with prescribed safety standards.

The Committee held detailed discussions on the black spots identified through the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) platform. The concerned agencies briefed the chair about the remedial measures already undertaken as well as those proposed at the identified black spots.

The ADC directed the constituted teams to conduct physical inspections of all identified hotspots, black spots and vulnerable locations and undertake a detailed assessment of the causes contributing to accidents at these places. He

called for location-specific remedial measures, particularly engineering interventions, to minimise the risk of accidents and improve the safety of road users.

The meeting was further informed that 24 PM RAHAT-designated hospitals are presently available in the district to provide timely medical care and emergency support to road accident victims.

The Committee also reviewed the analysis of accident data available through the iRAD platform, identification of remaining black spots and the measures required for their rectification. Detailed deliberations were also held on ensuring effective implementation of the PM Sadak Suraksha (Setu/Sehat) financial assistance scheme in the district.

Emphasising the need for timely assistance to accident victims and affected families, the ADC directed the concerned departments to expedite the identification of eligible beneficiaries and ensure prompt processing and disbursement of claims under applicable relief and compensation schemes. He stressed the need to streamline documentation and verification procedures while maintaining transparency and efficiency.

The ADC further directed the concerned agencies to undertake a comprehensive analytical review of road accident data to identify recurring causes, vulnerable locations and areas requiring targeted engineering and enforcement interventions. He called for in-depth examination of each identified black spot and formulation of permanent engineering solutions aimed at preventing serious and fatal accidents.

The Executive Officers of the Municipal Councils were directed to take effective measures for the removal of encroachments along roads and footpaths, ensuring safe and unobstructed movement of pedestrians and commuters. They were also asked to maintain cleanliness and usability of footpaths and take necessary measures to regulate roadside parking, particularly at busy and accident-prone locations.

The ADC stressed that road safety requires coordinated efforts among all concerned departments and agencies and called for regular monitoring of the measures being implemented, with a focus on timely corrective action and sustained improvement in road safety standards across the district.

DC Bandipora reviews Road Safety Measures



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, Oct 03: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Mini Secretariat here to review the implementation of road safety measures and the status of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on decisions taken by the Committee.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the progress made by concerned departments and stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination and timely implementation of road safety measures. She directed the departments concerned to furnish ATRs within stipulated timelines and ensure effective follow-up of the directions issued by the Committee.

The DC also sought comprehensive details of road safety works undertaken during the financial year 2025-26 and directed the concerned departments to submit projections for proposed works for 2026-27. She emphasized that timely availability of such details would facilitate effective monitoring and implementation of the district's road safety action plan.

Speaker emphasises inter-departmental coordination for Urs celebrations at Charar-i-Sharief

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 03: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Charar-i-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the forthcoming annual Urs of the revered 14th-century patron saint of Kashmir, Hazrat Sheikh-ul-Aalam Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA), scheduled to commence from October 7.

During the meeting, the Speaker, as per an official statement, reviewed the arrangements being put in place by various departments for smooth, peaceful and hassle-free conduct of the Urs, with particular emphasis on ensuring adequate civic amenities and facilities for devotees.

Reviewing the arrangements for drinking water, the Speaker directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate and uninterrupted water supply in and around the shrine and Charar-i-Sharief town. He called for ensuring round-the-clock availability of water in washrooms for both male and female devotees and deployment of water tankers as an emergency measure, wherever required.

Regarding power supply and illumination, the Speaker directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply



throughout the Urs period and proper illumination of the shrine and adjoining areas.

On health and medical facilities, the Speaker called for deployment of adequate medical teams, availability of ambulances and sufficient stocks of essential medicines to deal with any medical emergency during the celebrations.

The Speaker also directed the concerned authorities to make arrangements for distribution of ration to the residents of Charar-i-Sharief, keeping in view the anticipated increase in the number of visitors and the requirements of the local population during the Urs.

Emphasizing the importance of cleanliness and sanitation, the Speaker directed for adequate deployment of sanitation staff, installation of sufficient toilets and dustbins at strategic locations and regular lifting and scientific disposal of waste to maintain cleanliness in and around the shrine and town.

He further directed the concerned departments to conduct regular inspections of shops

and food establishments to ensure compliance with prescribed standards of food hygiene and sanitation. He also called for strict monitoring of prices, weights and measures to safeguard the interests of devotees and the general public.

Reviewing the transport and traffic management arrangements, the Speaker stressed the need for adequate public transport facilities, designated parking areas and a well-coordinated traffic management plan, including proper diversions and regulation of vehicular movement, to ensure smooth traffic flow during the Urs.

On security arrangements, the Speaker called for adequate deployment of security personnel for effective crowd management and maintenance of law and order. He stressed the need for strict vigil in and around the shrine and other sensitive areas. He also directed for positioning of adequate fire-fighting and emergency response vehicles at strategic locations to deal with any eventuality.

The Speaker stressed upon all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure effective inter-departmental convergence for making comprehensive arrangements well in advance. He called for regular monitoring of all arrangements and prompt resolution of any gaps or bottlenecks so that the Urs celebrations are conducted in a peaceful, safe and seamless manner.

The Speaker directed for establishment of a 24x7 control room during the Urs period to facilitate prompt redressal of issues and grievances of devotees and the general public. He called for deployment of designated officers and officials from all concerned departments at the control room on a rotational basis, so that necessary assistance and coordination are available round the clock and any issue arising during the Urs is addressed promptly.

He reiterated that all necessary arrangements must be put in place well ahead of commencement of the Urs to facilitate devotees and ensure their safety, comfort and convenience.

ADC Budgam, SDM Chadoora, CMO Budgam Executive Engineers (PHE, R&B), AD FCS&CA, Tehsilad Charar-i-Sharief, SDPO Charar-i-sharief, ARTO Budgam, BMO Charar-i-sharief, BDO Charar-i-sharief and representatives from civil society were present in the meeting.

CS, Additional Secretary MHA review implementation of CSS, progress on ongoing developmental projects across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 03: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Additional Secretary (Foreigners & UT), Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Nitesh Vyas Saturday jointly chaired a high level meeting at SKICC here to review the implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and progress on ongoing developmental projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; ACS Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; Administrative Secretaries of various departments and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking during the meeting, Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, stressed on the need for a focused and outcome-oriented approach towards implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programmes in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the objective should not only be to achieve physical targets but also to ensure that the infrastructure and services created under these programmes deliver sustained and measurable benefits to the people.

Atal Dulloo directed the concerned departments to accord priority to time-bound

completion of ongoing projects, effective utilization of funds and saturation of eligible beneficiaries under various welfare and development schemes. He emphasized the importance of regular field-level monitoring and periodic assessment of outcomes so that gaps in implementation are identified at an early stage and corrective measures are taken promptly.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Additional Secretary MHA emphasized on the importance of timely implementation, effective inter-departmental coordination, optimal utilization of resources and regular monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes. He stressed on the need for addressing implementation bottlenecks and ensuring that the benefits of various Government initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Nitesh Vyas called upon the concerned departments and implementing agencies to maintain close coordination with the respective Ministries of the Government of India and ensure timely resolution of issues affecting implementation.

The Additional Secretary MHA also laid emphasis on strengthening convergence among concerned departments and implementing agencies, improving project execution and ensuring measurable outcomes from the



various development and welfare programmes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress of various CSS, development projects and other welfare initiatives of the Union Government being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir was held in detail.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was also delivered on the occasion covering Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI Schools, including phase-wise selection, comparative assessment of schools and infrastructure status. The progress of skilling initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and preparedness for PM-SETU were also reviewed.

The meeting also undertook a detailed review of the PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana, with focus on the installation of rooftop solar systems at households and solarisation of Government

buildings. Progress in the installation of smart meters, augmentation and upgradation of power infrastructure, connectivity infrastructure and projects under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) were also discussed. The progress of BharatNet Phase-III was reviewed with emphasis on strengthening digital connectivity and expanding broadband infrastructure.

Under the social sector, progress of major social security and welfare schemes was reviewed, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and enrolment under maternity benefit schemes. The implementation of POSHAN 2.0, nutritional profiles, workforce vacancies and key indicators relating to Saksham Anganwadi were also discussed.

The progress under AMRUT 2.0 was also reviewed, with

discussions focusing on the status of ongoing projects, works undertaken and their physical and financial progress. The meeting also reviewed urban housing and sanitation initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U), including implementation of PMAY-U 1.0 and PMAY-U 2.0.

The health sector review covered Ayushman Bharat Digital Health, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), National Health Mission (NHM) and TB Mukht Bharat. Discussions included targets and progress towards TB elimination and the strategy for achieving the desired outcomes. The National AYUSH Mission was also reviewed.

The meeting further reviewed rural housing and financing, including financial utilisation and the status of delivery under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G). The review

focused on progress achieved, utilisation of funds and timely completion of housing interventions for eligible rural beneficiaries.

In the tourism sector, the progress of projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and key components of the scheme was discussed. The meeting also reviewed green mobility and civil aviation infrastructure, including electric mobility initiatives and projects under FAME and PM-eBus initiatives.

A detailed review was also undertaken regarding the implementation of Swadesh Darshan 1.0/2.0, PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) and the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), with emphasis on the progress of projects and infrastructure development.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF). Discussions focused on strengthening fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure, enhancing fish production and productivity, improving post-harvest management and market linkages, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders associated with the fisheries sector.

During the meeting, the

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was discussed with emphasis laid on improving sanitation and hygiene in rural areas. The Mission aims to sustain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in villages and promote improved standards of cleanliness, sanitation and waste management. The discussion covered continued efforts towards solid and liquid waste management, including effective management of household waste, plastic waste, greywater and other forms of rural waste. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring that sanitation infrastructure created under the Mission is properly maintained and remains functional.

While reviewing the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the focus was laid on providing adequate, reliable and sustainable drinking water supply to rural households through functional household tap connections. The review covered the status of water supply infrastructure, functionality of household tap connections, operation and maintenance of schemes, water quality monitoring and the sustainability of drinking water sources.

The water transport and development of inland waterways under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways was also discussed. The potential of waterways as an alternative mode of transportation for passengers and goods was highlighted.

India summons Pak CDA to protest Islamabad's 'facilitation' of illegal cross-border infiltration

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: India on Saturday summoned Pakistani Chargé d'affaires Saad Warraich to lodge a strong protest over Islamabad's "continued facilitation" of illegal cross-border infiltration.

New Delhi's action came hours after Pakistan summoned the Indian Chargé d'affaires in Islamabad to protest against the "killing of two civilians" by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the frontier between the two countries in the Punjab sector.

BSF troops on Friday shot dead two suspected Pakistani intruders along the international border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district, according to officials.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it summoned the Chargé d'affaires of the Pakistan High Commission to lodge India's strong protest



over the "continued facilitation of illegal cross-border infiltration from Pakistan".

"India also categorically rejected the baseless and motivated allegations regarding an incident in the Ferozepur sector, Punjab, along the International Border on October 2," it said.

The MEA said the Pakistani side was informed that three individuals infiltrated into Indian territory and, despite multiple warnings by BSF to return to Pakistan, continued to move towards the border

fence.

"The BSF was compelled to engage them for posing an imminent security threat. This incident highlights a clear pattern of repeated cross-border movement by armed narcotics syndicates operating from Pakistan," it said.

"The government of Pakistan was urged to investigate these cross-border infiltration, drug smuggling activities and the complicity of Pakistan Border Guarding forces therein, and to take appropriate remedial measures," the MEA said in a statement.

It said Pakistan was further urged to ensure "respect for the sanctity of the international border, strictly observe relevant bilateral arrangements, mandate its forces to exercise effective control to prevent unauthorised movement from its side, and take definitive measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."

'Bitchat removed from Apple's India App Store following govt's demand'

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: Apple has officially removed the offline messaging application, Bitchat, from its India App Store after a demand from the country's IT ministry, Jack Dorsey said in an X post on Saturday.

"Government of India officially removes Bitchat from the App Store," the app's developer and Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey wrote in his post, alongside a screenshot of what appeared to be a notice from Apple's App Review team.

Bitchat, built by Dorsey, had come under government scrutiny in July this year as well, when the Home Ministry's cybercrime arm, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre, had ordered GitHub to remove the Bluetooth-based messaging application.

On Saturday, Dorsey tagged Apple's latest notice in his post. In the notice, Apple said the app would be removed "per demand

from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)" and because "it includes content that is illegal in India".

"We are writing to notify you that your application, per demand from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), will be removed from the India App Store because it includes content that is illegal in India, which is not in compliance with the App Review Guidelines," the attached notice said.

That particular section, the notice said, requires apps to follow all legal requirements in any location where they are offered. It says developers are responsible for understanding and complying with local laws, beyond Apple's own guidelines.

According to the post, MeitY issued the takedown demand under Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Apple notice said that the developer of the app can contact the ministry directly for

more information about the removal or about Indian laws and requirements. The app remains available in the App Stores of other territories selected in App Store Connect, Apple said.

"The TestFlight version of this app will also be unavailable for external and internal testing in India, and all public TestFlight links will no longer be functional," it said.

Bitchat had previously drawn government action as well, and that time too Dorsey had called it out in an X post. In July, during Cockroach Janta Party protests over exam paper leaks, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre had ordered Microsoft subsidiary GitHub to remove Bitchat.

"The Government of India does not like technologies like Bitchat and wants it taken down," Dorsey had said in an X post at that time while tagging a copy of the July 23 notice.

In that notice, I4C had said that the app enables communication even during network restrictions

and creates a substantial risk of misuse by anti-national elements, terrorist organisations, organised criminal groups and cyber criminals seeking to evade lawful detection and continue communication despite legally imposed restrictions.

The July notice had come after several users participating in a protest organised by the Cockroach Janata Party at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, were observed using Bluetooth-based messaging apps despite the government-imposed temporary restrictions on internet services around the protest site. According to I4C, since communications occur directly between nearby devices through a decentralised mesh network, the platform could be misused to evade lawful surveillance, facilitate anonymous coordination, and circumvent lawful restrictions imposed by competent authorities during situations involving public disorder, riots, terrorism, organised crime, or internet shutdowns.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre considering

We will also think about other new projects," he said.

Asked about J&K's dependence on power supplied from outside despite identifying around 14,500 MW of hydropower potential, Agarwal said the ongoing projects would help address the issue.

"All these projects that I have told you about are in your UT. And they will not only meet your demand, but will also meet the demand of the rest of the country," he said.

On the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Agarwal said around 50 lakh people across the country had joined the programme so far, while J&K had achieved its first milestone of 100 MW. "Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the first milestone of 100 megawatts. Once the momentum is there, the progress will definitely be fast," he said.

Srinagar, Budgam, Kupwara doing 'extremely well'

He said J&K had made a good start under the rooftop solar programme and was now reaching the take-off stage. "J&K has made a good start in PM Suryagar. And it takes time to build momentum in the beginning. Once the momentum builds up, it will take off," Agarwal said.

He said Srinagar, Budgam and Kupwara are doing "extremely well", while Baramulla and Bandipora were lagging. He said the subsidy disbursement system under the scheme was completely portal-driven and the flow of central government subsidy directly to beneficiaries had been smooth.

He also said the issue of better streamlining of the UT's top-up

subsidy would be discussed with the Chief Secretary. Agarwal said 164 GW of solar capacity is connected to ground-mounted solar nationally, with states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh using ground-mounted solar extensively.

VISITS SEVA SETU ABHIYAN CAMP

Earlier, Agarwal visited the Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp being organised under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Srinagar, where he inspected stalls and help desks and interacted with vendors providing services related to the scheme.

KPDCL Managing Director Mahmood Ahmad Shah briefed him on the implementation of the scheme in the region and initiatives aimed at facilitating public access to rooftop solar-related services. The Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp is aimed at strengthening public outreach, facilitating citizen-centric service delivery and creating awareness among citizens about the benefits of rooftop solar under the scheme. (KNO)

LG condoles

Spoke with DC Ramban to ensure best possible treatment for the seriously injured shifted to GMC Jammu. Praying for their speedy recovery."

Op Sindoor underscores

military capability and remains a key instrument for achieving national objectives," he said.

Singh said growing global interest in advanced fighter aircraft, long-range precision weapons, integrated air command-and-control systems and unmanned aerial systems reflected the increasing concentration of military power in the aerospace domain.

On China's fifth-generation fighter aircraft and reports that Pakistan may acquire them, Singh said the development was a concern but not an insurmountable challenge.

"However, is it a no-go situation? I wouldn't agree with that," he said.

He noted that the effectiveness of any fighter aircraft depends on its integration with the broader military system rather than the platform alone.

Pakistan had operated advanced platforms in the past but failed to achieve significant results during Operation Sindoor, he said, adding that effective integration of India's existing and newly inducted systems would help counter future threats until any such aircraft were fully integrated into Pakistan's military architecture.

The IAF chief also called for the early induction of next-generation fighter aircraft and faster progress on the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

"We must prioritise the early induction of an aircraft of this generation. We need to push the AMCA programme forward; if there are delays, we must make alternative decisions," he said.

Singh had earlier said India was likely to finalise the long-pending Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) deal by the end of the current financial year if the acquisition process proceeds as planned. (KNO)

Modi govt brings

handlers, funding networks and support systems based abroad, significantly strengthening India's ability to pursue fugitives and dismantle their networks.

To strengthen coordination, connectivity and information-sharing between India and global law enforcement agencies, Shah launched BHARATPOL in January 2025.

BHARATPOL has created a comprehensive information infrastructure by integrating the CBI, State Police Headquarters (through Interpol Liaison Officers) and District Police Headquarters onto a single platform. Under this initiative, more than 1,400 units of State and Central agencies have been connected through the portal, ensuring seamless flow of information.

As a result, the response time for information-sharing between the CBI and other law enforcement agencies has been significantly reduced. Today, information sought by the CBI is generally shared by other law enforcement agencies within 10 to 20 days, and in some cases, within 3 to 10 days, substantially improving the efficiency of investigations and extradition proceedings.

The Modi Government has enforced the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) with greater rigour. Through stringent enforcement, the government attached assets worth Rs 17,874 crore belonging to fugitive criminals between 2019 and 2026.

Over the past three years, Red Corner Notices have been issued against 401 fugitive criminals. A total of 182 Red Corner Notices have been issued till July 2026.

J&K's has immense

level. "We want cricket to flourish in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and more and more players should come up," he said.

He also pointed to the ongoing Irani Cup clash between Jammu and Kashmir and Rest of India in Srinagar as a reflection of the improvement in the standard of J&K cricket. "You can see the way the level of J&K cricket has gone up. There is a lot of talent here. It just needs to be nurtured, and it needs to be backed," Manhas said.

The BCCI chief also praised the Indian team for its latest title triumph, saying the side's ability to handle pressure had been a key factor in its success. "The way they have performed this time is commendable. The way our team handles pressure situations, no other team in the country can do that," he said.

He hailed India's batting unit, saying the openers set the tone while the middle order finished games and lauded players for stepping up at crucial moments.

Manhas said the growing participation of countries in cricket is a positive development and welcomed the sport's increasing global reach. He also said the contribution of former BCCI secretary Jay Shah to Indian cricket, including the development of the women's game.

The BCCI chief said the latest success of Indian cricket should be celebrated by fans across the country and dedicated the achievement to supporters and soldiers who, he said, pray for and support the team. (KNO)

Northern Army Commander

Meeting at #Srinagar and reviewed inputs in presence of key stakeholders on the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and

coordination mechanisms," the Northern Command said.

It added that Lt Gen Sharma reiterated the need for enhanced inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing and integrated coordination to strengthen operational readiness, facilitate rapid response and enhance the effectiveness of joint operations. (KNO)

Saffron growers fear

said interventions under the National Mission on Saffron (NMS) helped rejuvenate saffron fields and encouraged cultivation, but stressed that the benefits would remain limited without reliable irrigation and protection of saffron crops.

Wani urged the government to ensure irrigation infrastructure in saffron-growing areas remains functional and accessible.

"Farmers should not be left entirely dependent on rainfall, especially when weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable," he said.

Growers also expressed concern over the alleged illegal removal and diversion of saffron crops, saying it could undermine efforts to revive the sector.

They urged authorities to strengthen monitoring, prevent illegal siphoning of crops and ensure revival measures reach genuine growers.

Calling for urgent intervention, they sought restoration of irrigation facilities and revival of the saffron development project, saying a coordinated approach involving irrigation, climate-resilient practices, quality planting material and field-level support was essential to safeguard Kashmir's traditional saffron sector. (KNO)

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After full implementation of BNS, cases from FIR to SC will be disposed of in 3 yrs: HM Shah

PTI

Bhopal, Oct 3: Union Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that after the full implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), cases from the FIR stage to the Supreme Court will be disposed of within three years.

He was addressing the state-level conference of cattle rearers here after inaugurating an exhibition on the new criminal law.

"Today, two events have just taken place in Bhopal. First, an exhibition on the new nyaya sanhita (BNS) was inaugurated, and a conference of cattle rearers was held. Such a large number of cattle rearers have come here, which is a great omen for the milk revolution in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

Shah, who heads the Home and Cooperation ministries, said India's criminal justice system was earlier known for delays, but the situation had improved.

"I have come especially to tell (the people and) the youth that after about one and a half years, once the (new criminal law) is fully implemented, any case, from the filing of an FIR to the Supreme Court, will be disposed of within three years,"



he said.

The laws made by the British were brought in to protect their government and their rule, he said.

"The new criminal law has been introduced to protect the dignity of the citizens of India. Its basic principle is justice, not punishment. Punishment is provided for only where necessary, to deter those who commit crimes," he

said. After the full implementation of the BNS, India's criminal justice system will become the most modern in the world, Shah said. Hitting out at the opposition Congress, Shah said that ever since the country gained Independence, people associated with the agricultural system, rural development and cooperatives had been demanding an independent

cooperative ministry. "However, these Congressmen did not allow it to be formed for 75 years," he said.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge, he established a separate cooperative ministry, said Shah.

"If anyone is going to benefit the most from the formation of the cooperative ministry, then it will be the cattle rearers," he said.

Milk production has also accelerated under PM Modi, said the Union minister.

"In 2014-15, India's total milk production was 14.7 crore tonnes. In 75 years, it reached only 14.7 crore tonnes. But Modi ji worked hard to increase it to 25 crore tonnes in 10 years," he said.

Efforts are being made to improve cow breeds with modern technology and ensure that they don't fall sick, he said.

The Congress has only spread "negativity", while PM Modi has lifted the country high in different sectors, he said.

"Modi ji has taken a pledge and has also made crores of people in the country take a pledge that by August 15, 2047, India will be number one in the world in every field," he added.

RBI committed to remain vigilant of emerging vulnerabilities, keep financial system resilient: Guv



RBI governor also called for improvements in monitoring and assessment frameworks through better and more granular data.

Data on non-banking financial institutions (NBFI), interconnected exposures, technological developments and cross-border positions can remain fragmented, he said, adding that the data quality would increasingly determine the quality of risk assessment in an interconnected financial system.

He said resilience also needs to be "system-wide", noting that a strong banking system, while necessary, is not sufficient.

Resilience is required across NBFIs, financial markets, payment systems, technology infrastructure providers, critical third parties and cross-border financial networks, he said.

On financial innovation, Malhotra said technologies such as artificial intelligence and tokenisation, as well as new forms of financial intermediation, could significantly improve efficiency, but innovation must not undermine the foundations of trust in the financial system.

He emphasised sound institutions, settlement finality, singleness of money and financial integrity as fundamental properties that need to be preserved.

supported by healthy balance sheets of banks and NBFIs.

He said shocks, whether endogenous or exogenous, are inevitable and the objective should be to build a financial system capable of providing financial services even under severe stress.

Malhotra also flagged a new generation of systemic risks that are increasingly exogenous, cross-border and interconnected.

The next financial crisis, he said, may not necessarily originate in a bank or even within the financial sector, but could begin with a geopolitical event, cyber attack or technological failure and affect the financial system through multiple channels.

He stressed the need to better understand network dependencies and contagion channels while making scenario analysis a cornerstone of risk management. The

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 3: Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said the resilience of the financial system today should not be taken as a guarantee against future vulnerabilities and called for continued vigilance to safeguard financial stability. Speaking at the Kaulitya Economic Conclave here, he outlined five priorities for policymakers, stressing that financial stability should focus not on preventing shocks but on strengthening the financial system's ability to withstand and contain their impact.

"Today's resilience may not necessarily imply tomorrow's immunity, and we are committed to remain vigilant of emerging vulnerabilities and continue to keep our financial system strong and resilient," he said, highlighting the resilience of the financial system

India may finalise MRFA deal by current financial year: IAF chief



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 3: India is looking at finalising the much-awaited multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) deal by this financial year provided things go as per plan, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, said on Saturday.

In its largest-ever defence acquisition push, India in February cleared a long-pending proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets under a government-to-government framework with France, nearly two decades after the plan was originally rolled out to boost the Indian Air Force's combat prowess.

The price negotiations and other critical issues relating to the project are currently underway.

Addressing a press conference ahead of Air Force Day, the Air Chief Marshal also said that the force may have to look at the procurement of another platform if the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme faces delays.

"Russia has offered us Su-57 jets, but no decision has been made on it," he said.

Responding to a question on the depleting strength of fighter squadrons, Air Chief Marshal Singh said the Indian Air Force (IAF) needs at least 36 to 40 aircraft annually in the next few years. He said air power remains crucial in the context of overall military strength and that India needs to further ramp up its air power.

Dev gains must reach all; it's necessary for democracy, youth's faith in it: VP



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 3: It is essential for sustaining a democratic system that the fruits of development reach everyone, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said on Saturday, warning that otherwise, youth may lose their faith in democracy.

He also asserted that inclusivity can sustain development and underlined the need to take decisions based on consensus.

Inaugurating the 5th Kaulitya Economic Conclave here, the vice president spoke about the scope of development and Indian economy.

Radhakrishnan said development should reach every section of society.

"Otherwise, people, especially the youngsters, may lose their faith in democracy. In some of the parts of the world, again people are saying communism is coming up," he said and expressed his opposition to the system "because it is a dictatorship".

"We are not against communism because of anything else," he said and expressed his view that no other form of governance can substitute a functional

democracy.

As the Rajya Sabha chair, he said, he firmly believes that only free and transparent debate strengthens democracy, not only in India but anywhere in the world. Ensuring that the fruits of development are distributed among all is essential for the sustainability of democracy, the vice president said.

Every individual should have the right to speak, work, earn legally and spend money the way he or she wants, he added.

Noting that the Indian economy is moving from under-developed to developing to developed, Radhakrishnan said we can call ourselves a developed economy -- if it is an inclusive development of everyone and when benefits reach every nook and corner. He also underlined that in a period of rapid changes, when geo-political tensions are rising, and global trade is changing, "we need decisiveness embedded in consensus".

He said we can debate, discuss and come to a conclusion that is acceptable to all.

Referring to policymaking, Radhakrishnan said the ground realities of both micro and macroeconomic situations should be taken

into consideration.

"When you have to make macroeconomic policies, then you have to understand the ground realities of the globe. That is where the success story of the Chinese is well-established. They understand the ground realities of both and bring their nation to (being) the second-largest economy of the world," he told the gathering.

Advising policymakers to always be aware of the facts on the ground, he added, "That is very very important. One has to be so flexible in making the policy that the policy itself should become a big success," he said.

The vice president said India has demonstrated that democracy and development can advance together.

"India's economic growth and inclusive progress have been achieved within a democratic framework, while consensus-building has given economic reforms greater durability and sustainability... This experience provides an important foundation for the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, he said. Emphasising that economic resilience cannot be separated from social resilience, Radhakrishnan pointed to the transformative role of Direct Benefit Transfer, GST and the JAM trinity -- standing for Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, and Mobile connections -- in strengthening financial inclusion, transparency and formalisation.

He noted that more than 590 million Jan Dhan accounts had been opened as of August 2026, while GST registrations had risen from around 6.65 million in 2017 to 16.5 million in May 2026.

Delhi Police registers 3 FIRs over anti-CEC protests, none named

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 3: Delhi Police on Saturday registered at least three FIRs in connection with Friday protests by student organisations, political parties and civil society activists who attempted to gather at Jantar Mantar, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Two FIRs were registered at Parliament Street police station and one at Connaught Place police station, invoking Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for alleged disobedience of an order duly promulgated by a public servant, a senior police officer said.

No individual or organisation has been named as an accused in the FIRs. However, details of organisers and organisations that proposed or participated in the demonstrations have been mentioned in the contents of the FIRs, an officer said.

On Friday, students, political leaders and civil society activists attempted to reach Jantar Mantar to demand Kumar's resignation over allegations concerning the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Election Commission's position and responses to these allegations have not been detailed in the FIRs.

Police said the protesters violated prohibitory orders imposed across New Delhi district under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The orders were issued ahead of the protest to ensure public safety, maintain public order and facilitate smooth traffic movement.

Under Section 163, gatherings of five or more people, processions, demonstrations, picketing, dharnas, slogan shouting and speeches were prohibited without prior written permission.

Carrying firearms, banners, placards, lathis, swords, sticks, brickbats and similar articles was also prohibited.

Govt to launch fresh probe into Mamata's 'leg injury' during 2021 poll campaign: CM

PTI

Kolkata, Oct 3: The West Bengal government will launch a fresh inquiry into Mamata Banerjee's "false claims" of leg injury during the 2021 assembly poll campaign, Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at state secretariat Nabanna, Adhikari claimed Banerjee had faked her injury during the elections.

"Mamata Banerjee faked her leg injury during campaigning in Nandigram in 2021. We have the medical report which stated that there was no evidence of fracture or dislocation. We will initiate an investigation into the matter," Adhikari said, while displaying Banerjee's medical report issued by the Bangur Institute of Neurosciences. "Her false allegation



insulted the people of Nandigram. I will come out with more details after the MCC (model code of conduct) is lifted after October 9...

Today, I am saying this in support of my claims made yesterday," he said.

By-election will be held in Nandigram on October 6 and the results

will be announced on October 9.

Adhikari had made the claim while addressing a rally at Birulia Bazaar in Nandigram II development block, the same location where Banerjee had sustained her injury five years ago.

Banerjee, the then CM, had sustained injuries to her left leg and waist in Reyapara area of Birulia in Nandigram on March 10, 2021, during her election campaign.

Banerjee had initially stated that a few unknown persons deliberately pushed her against her open car door, causing it to slam hard against her left leg and crush it amidst a heavy crowd.

In a subsequent video message from the hospital, she recounted that the massive crowd pressed into her car while she was greeting supporters, causing her leg to get crushed and injured.

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Notice

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GANDERBAL- 191201 Ph. No. : 9103724376.

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R/O RAKHI HARRAN GANDERBAL

Two Iranian men accused of scouting UK Synagogue for chlorine bomb plot



AP

London, Oct 3 :Two Iranian men conducted surveillance of a Manchester synagogue that was the site of a deadly attack a year ago as part of a plot to bomb it this year, a prosecutor said Saturday.

Salam Ahmadayan, 36, and Rahman Salehi, 34, researched attacking the Heaton Park Congregation Synagogue in Manchester in northwest England and the Jewish Museum in nearby Cheetham Hill, the court was told.

Ahmadyan and Salehi were arrested last month and charged Friday with engaging in conduct in preparation for terrorist acts.

Neither entered a plea during an appearance in Westminster Magistrates' Court, where Judge Nina Tempia ordered them held

until an Oct. 23 appearance at the Central Criminal Court in London.

Prosecutor Mark Luckett said the duo were directed by a third person believed to be in Iran who coordinated plans and provided instructions on making a homemade chlorine bomb.

The defendants were observed carrying out "a hostile reconnaissance within Manchester's Jewish community," Luckett said.

The Heaton Park synagogue was the site of an attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, on Oct. 2, 2025, when Jihad Al-Shamie, 35, crashed his car into the gates and then began a knife attack while wearing a fake suicide belt. Congregation members Melvin Cravitz, 66, and Adrian Daulby, 53,

died in the attack and three other men were seriously wounded. Al-Shamie, who allegedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, was killed by police.

Ahmadyan and Salehi entered the UK without authorisation in the past six years after crossing the English Channel by boat, the court was told. Salehi was granted asylum, and Ahmadayan has a pending asylum claim.

Vicki Evans, senior national coordinator of counterterror policing, said the plot was believed to be isolated and there was no ongoing public threat. She also said it was unconnected to a suspected terror plot at US-run RAF Fairford air base, which some officials have said was linked to Tehran.

"I'm aware that the news of this alleged plot coming during the High Holy Day period has caused a great deal of concern," Evans said. "It also coincides with the anniversary of the devastating terrorist attack last year at Heaton Park synagogue and comes in a wider context of increasing antisemitic incidents across the UK, so we are very aware that this will likely increase what were already heightened concerns amongst the Jewish community."

PM Modi hails India's Asian games medal winners

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 3 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday showered praise on Indian men's hockey and cricket teams' for clinching Asian Games gold, saying they along with other podium-toppers brought joy to the nation with an "exceptional campaign."

India beat cross-border rivals Pakistan by 19 runs to bag men's cricket gold, while the hockey team was equally dominant in its 5-1 win over Malaysia in the medal match.

"The Gold comes to India yet again! Congratulations to our Men's Cricket Team on retaining their title at the Asian Games. This is indeed a joyous occasion for the nation. My best wishes to the team members for their future endeavours," the PM wrote on his X handle.

Both hockey and cricket teams defended their yellow metal with a dominant show, and in a delightful coincidence their women counterparts too stood at the top of the podium earlier.

"Back-to-back Asian Games Golds for the first



time and a fifth Gold overall...it's been an exceptional campaign by our players.

"This triumph becomes even more special as, for the first time, both our Men's and Women's Hockey Teams have won Gold at the same Asian Games. It is clear that Indian Hockey stands tall on the Asian stage," he added.

Modi then moved on to pat individual medal winners, starting with archer Kumkum Mohod, who wore gold around her neck in the Recurve Individual event.

The 17-year old is the first Indian woman to achieve the feat.

"A Gold that will always be remembered. Congratulations to Kumkum Anil Mohod on becoming the first Indian woman to win Recurve

Sehrawat, who won gold in the 57kg Freestyle event, also received compliments from the PM.

"What a phenomenal triumph for Aman Sehrawat! He has scripted history by winning India's first-ever Asian Games Gold in the Men's 57kg Freestyle Wrestling event.

"From Bronze at the last Asian Games to standing atop the podium this time, Aman has displayed great tenacity. Congratulations and best wishes to him," he noted.

Deepak Punia might have had to settle for a bronze in men's 97 kg freestyle category, but Modi had little doubt that the effort will act as a stepping stone for future success.

"Six decades later, India is back on the podium in the Men's 97kg Freestyle Wrestling event at the Asian Games! "

"Deepak Punia has brought home the Bronze after a fiercely contested bout, adding a new chapter to India's wrestling journey. Congrats to him. May he keep attaining more success in the times to come," the Prime Minister said.

Individual Gold at the 2026 Asian Games.

Wrestler Aman

Omani co-pilot named in flydubai attack on Indian captain

PTI

New York, Oct 3 :An Omani citizen, Hamam al-Hammami, has been identified as the flydubai co-pilot who attacked Indian Captain Smit Machchhar and allegedly attempted to take control of a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight this week, according to media reports.

Al-Hammami was reportedly previously barred from flying in Oman over concerns about his radical ideological views, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, quoting people familiar with the matter.

On flydubai flight FZ1073 on Wednesday, he attacked Machchhar with a crash axe, typically kept in the cockpit for use in emergencies, seriously injuring him.

The motive for the attack remains unclear.

The flight, carrying 174 passengers, transmitted emergency signals and made a rapid descent of more than 17,000 feet from 34,000 feet.

The captain was lying injured on the cockpit floor when he realised the plane was descending and decided to make "one last push" to open the cockpit door, according to the BBC.

Dubai crown prince praises Indian pilot after Dubai-Tel Aviv flight attack

PTI

Dubai, Oct 3 :Dubai Crown Prince Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on Saturday praised Indian pilot Smit Machchhar for his "courage" in averting a possible tragedy after he was attacked by his co-pilot during a flight to Israel.

Captain Machchhar was stabbed and seriously injured in the cockpit of flydubai flight FZ1073 on Wednesday while it was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

Crown Prince Hamdan visited Machchhar at the hospital where he is undergoing treatment and posted photographs from the meeting on X.

Hamdan, who is also the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, said the flydubai pilot had "embodied the highest degrees of courage, responsibility, and care for human life."

Sakeena Itoo calls for girls' empowerment through education, sports

KT News Desk

Kulgam,Oct 03: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today presided over a felicitation ceremony organized under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for top performer teams of various Girls Sports Tournaments and NEET Qualifiers of the district at Government Degree College, Kulgam.

The ceremony was organized by the Social Welfare Department Kulgam in collaboration with Sports, Higher Education and other departments of district administration with the objective of celebrating the achievements of girls in



sports and academics, promoting the message of women empowerment. Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the importance of empowering women and girls

through education, sports, skill development and awareness. She also emphasized the need to create greater awareness among women and girls about various government schemes

and welfare initiatives being implemented by different departments for their benefit.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that participation in sports helps girls develop confidence, discipline, leadership qualities and teamwork while providing them opportunities to showcase their talent at different levels. Director General ICDS Sajad Hussain Ganie, DPO Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, ACR Kulgam Reyaz Ahmad Shah and District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam Rameez Ahmad Ganie, also addressed the gathering. They spoke on women empowerment, education, sports participation and initiatives available for women and girls.

DC Bandipora inspects route ahead of BSF Wular ultra run

KT News Desk

Bandipora, Oct 3 : A day ahead of the 3rd Edition of the BSF Wular Ultra Run 2026, scheduled to be held on October 4, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today conducted a route inspection and dry run to review on the spot arrangements for the event.

The DC inspected the designated route, including the starting point at BSF Headquarters and the U-turn point at Darmhama, along with key locations identified for water and hydration points, health and medical facilities and other necessary arrangements.

She was accompanied by senior officers of the District Administration and BSF, and jointly reviewed the preparedness at various points along the route and assessed the arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the ultra run.

The BSF Wular Ultra Run is being organised under the theme "Save Wular, Run With Bordermen" and features 50 km, 25 km, 10.5 km and 5 km categories.

Tanvir Sadiq attends deaf T20 championship, praises athletes' determination



Kt News Desk

Srinagar, October 3: Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference and MLA Tanvir Sadiq today attended the IX National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket Championship at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar, as Chief Guest and felicitated the participating teams and players.

The championship brought together deaf cricketers from Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra, Delhi and several other parts of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Tanvir Sadiq said he felt immense pride and emotion witnessing the determination and sporting spirit of the participating athletes. "These young men have faced challenges that many of us may never fully understand, yet they have refused to allow those challenges to define or limit them. Instead, they have chosen discipline, hard

work and sport. They are not asking for sympathy; they are demanding to be seen for their talent and determination. He said the achievements of these athletes extend far beyond the cricket field. "Many of them have travelled across the country, represented their States and brought pride to their families, their communities and India. Their journey is a powerful reminder that circumstances can create challenges, but they do not have to determine our destination." Tanvir Sadiq said the championship also carried an important message for young people. "There is a lesson here for all of us, particularly our young generation. When people facing far greater challenges can find the discipline to train, compete and represent their States and country, we should think twice before making excuses for inactivity, substance abuse or an unhealthy lifestyle. Sport teaches us to respect our bodies, value our time and build

discipline."

He stressed that physical activity and sport should become an integral part of everyday life, especially at a time when substance abuse and sedentary lifestyles are becoming serious concerns among young people. "The answer to many of the challenges confronting our youth lies not only in lectures, but in giving them football grounds, cricket pitches, gyms, athletics tracks and opportunities to participate. A healthy body and a disciplined mind can change the course of a young person's life." Tanvir Sadiq also congratulated the Association of Deaf and Dumb and the All J&K Sports Association of the Deaf for organising the championship in Srinagar and said such events help make Jammu & Kashmir an important destination for inclusive national sporting events.

He said the participating athletes had demonstrated that talent has no barrier and determination needs no translation.

Under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, sports will receive strong and sustained backing, with special focus on supporting athletes whose extraordinary determination and perseverance inspire the entire society. "Today, I did not just watch a cricket match. I witnessed courage, discipline and an extraordinary refusal to give up. Every player who walked onto that field has already won something far more important—the battle against limitations and circumstances. Their example should inspire all of us."

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